

surpassing the calyx lobes, oblong-spatulate, 3.5 cm. wide, conspicuously parallel-veined.

Type in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden, collected at Mamatoca, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1898-99, by Herbert H. Smith (no. 829). The collector states that the tree is "common locally near streams, at 500 to 2,500 feet. Flowers in December and January. Petals pale yellowish. The silk enveloping the seeds is used for pillows, etc., and is sold in the market (as 'lana') at Santa Marta. It is collected in May, when it is found scattered on the ground under the trees." We also refer to this species Broadway no. 4,418, collected March 8, 1913, in Tobago; also Père Duss. no. 3,634, April 10, 1895, from Guadelupe, and his no. 185, from Martinique, although the last two collections do not entirely agree with the type.

ORNITHOLOGY.—*Diagnosis of a new genus of Bucerotidae.*

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The family Bucerotidae at the present time is represented in the Philippine Islands by four genera. One of these, however, *Hydrocorax* Brisson, proves to be composite. This genus *Hydrocorax* was first instituted by Brisson for *Buceros hydrocorax* Linnaeus;¹ much later (1880) another species, *Buceros mindanensis* Tweeddale, was added by Elliot; and subsequently still another, *Buceros semigaleatus* Tweeddale, was referred to this group. The last-mentioned species, however, is clearly not congeneric, and should form the type of a separate monotypic genus which we here call:

***Platycorax*,² gen. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Similar to *Hydrocorax* Brisson, but casque entirely different: in superior aspect smaller, shorter, and narrower in general outline (although the bird is actually larger), posteriorly narrower and not so truncate, the anterior portion sharply much constricted, so that the anterior third is much narrower than in *Hydrocorax*, and concave in outline instead of evenly convex throughout its length: in lateral aspect completely flattened anteriorly, with no vertical projection, the whole bill therefore much less in height;³ feathered interramal space relatively as well as actually broader.

Type.—*Buceros semigaleatus* Tweeddale.

¹ *Hydrocorax* Brisson, Ornith. 4: 565. 1760. (Type by tautonymy, *Buceros hydrocorax* Linnaeus.)

² πλατύς, latus; κοράξ, corvus.

³ These differences in the shape of the casque are well shown by the figures given in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for 1878, pages 278-279.

Remarks.—This new genus differs so much from the other Philippine genera, and in fact from all of the genera of the *Bucerotidae*, that a close comparison is scarcely necessary. It is, of course, apparently most nearly allied to *Hydrocorax*, although it is so different in appearance from *Hydrocorax hydrocorax*, the type of that genus, that it is rather remarkable that it has not been separated before. It should be stated, however, that Dr. Edgar A. Mearns had noticed the very striking structural characters in *Hydrocorax semigaleatus* Tweeddale, and just before his untimely death had planned to create a new generic group for this species.

The third species commonly referred to the genus *Hydrocorax*, *Hydrocorax mindanensis* (Tweeddale), has a smaller casque than *Hydrocorax hydrocorax*, but it is of the same shape, and the species is without doubt correctly placed in the same genus. The type of our new genus, *Platycorax semigaleatus* (Tweeddale), is, therefore, its only species.

The only other generic name applied to any species of *Hydrocorax* is *Platyceros* Cabanis and Heine,⁴ the type of which is *Hydrocorax hydrocorax*; so that it is, of course, a synonym of *Hydrocorax* Brisson.

By the present separation of *Platycorax*, there are now five genera of Bucerotidae in the Philippine Islands, of which four, including *Platycorax*, are endemic.

⁴ Mus. Hein. 2: 174. 1860.